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and yet reappeared as rapidly as it vanished. I soon saw that it arose from no foreign source, but was connected with the tree itself; for two or three small clouds would suddenly appear in nearly as many different parts of the tree at nearly the same moment; and as each would be driven off and dispersed a new one would appear elsewhere. These puffs of smoke were all of nearly uniform size, each perhaps as large as that which is made by the lighting of a lucifer match. They were entirely confined to the tree, not a particle being visible beyond its outline, and appeared throughout its whole extent.

I watched the phenomenon for some time, till I became entirely satisfied that the seeming smoke really proceeded from the tree itself, and that it could be nothing else than the pollen, from the catkins which opened with a sudden explosion in the rays of the sun.

The phenomenon continued in full activity as long as I was at liberty to observe it, and when I was obliged to leave the spot, after some ten minutes of observation, the process was still going on, two or three of the little puffs constantly appearing in widely separated branches at every instant.

B. N. MARTIN.

26. Presses.—I have been interested in your remarks on the size of holders etc. They were very opportune. I am satisfied that we should have more herbariums, if young collectors had more instruction on this subject.

I have often thought of describing my press. I have used the lever and the screw press both, and prefer the one I have now to either: it consists of two pieces of pine boards, 12×17 inches, and half a dozen stones, weighing from 5 to 10 lbs. each. The advantage of this simple contrivance is, that it is cheap and within the means and ingenuity of any one, and that it constantly acts by force of gravity.

I have besides $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen pieces of *Binder's Boards*, well painted, to put between fresh and partly cured plants. Several presses can be substituted, or bits of board can be used instead of Binder's Boards, when cheapness is an object.

I make pads or driers by cutting newspapers to the size of the boards of the press, and fastening 8 thicknesses together by stitching the corners with strong thread. O. R. WILLIS, White Plains.

27. *Cerastium vulgatum*, L.—grows sparingly on the rocks on the Westchester side of Harlem River, east of McComb's Bridge.

28. Exchanges.—A correspondent in England wishes to exchange mosses and marine algæ. It seems that packets can be sent by book post at a moderate charge.

29. Note Books.—Always take a note book on a botanical excursion. Many observations may thus be preserved which would lose their value if trusted to uncertain memory.

Terms—One dollar for one copy; five dollars for seven; and half a dollar for every additional copy, per annum.

Local Herbarium, 3, E. 33d St.—Editor, 224, E. 10th St.